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On August 29, 2006, the undersigned representative and Examiner Chang conducted a telephonic interview. A previously faxed, proposed amendments were discussed, as well as US Patent No. 6,072,733 of Fichou et al, and US Patent No. 6,940,864 of Abdelilah. During the interview, Examiner Chang indicated that limiting the claims to non-ATM packets would distinguish them from Fichou et al. and Abdelilah. However, she stated that they could not be allowed without further searching.

Applicant maintains that Fichou et al. do not disclose Boolean expressions on primitive IP network predicates for use in generating configuration information for network elements, and that the final rejection of the pending claims, which relies on Fichou et al. to supply this teaching, is in error for at least this reason in addition to several others. Traffic descriptors as disclosed by Fichou et al. are parameters specifying performance guarantees for ATM cells.

Nevertheless, because the examiner has indicated that claims limited to non-ATM packets distinguish over Fichou et al, applicant has elected to amend independent claims 25, 34, 41 and 44 to require "IP" packets. "IP" refers to "Internet Protocol" and is intended to mean all versions, past, present and future, of the IETF's Internet Protocol and successor protocols.

The claims have been amended to remove the term "traffic descriptor" from the claims in order to avoid any further confusion. Removing this term is not intended to narrow the claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims, as amended, are patentable over the art of record for at least the reasons discussed above.

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CONCLUSION


Applicants respectfully submit that the Application is now in allowable form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the currently pending claims.

Applicants hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees due but not submitted with this paper to Deposit Account No. 07-0153. The Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's Attorney for any reasons that would advance the current application to issue. Please reference Attorney Docket No. 131195.1001.

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Respectfully submitted,

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